

Good News Parish Magazine

for High Downs Parish

*Serving the villages of
Eastling, Otterden,
Stalisfield and Throwley*

www.goodnews.rf.gd



- 4th Otterden & Stalisfield W.I. (AGM)
Stalisfield Village Hall 7.30pm
- 7th Throwley Forstal Green Fête
Throwley Fête 1 - 5pm
Bar & Live Music 6 - 11.30pm
- 8th Newnham Open Gardens 1 - 6pm
Newnham Village & Church
- 8th North Downs Walk start 8 - 11am
Harrietsham Village Hall
- 11th Arts Society lecture, Egerton
Millennium Hall, Egerton 2.30pm
- 11th Youth Group
Stalisfield Village Hall 7 - 8.30pm
- 18th Mid-week Holy Communion
Wychling Church 11am
- 20th Copy deadline for July 2025 Good
News: goodnewsmagazine@me.com
- 22nd Newnham Open Gardens 1 - 6pm
Newnham Village & Church
- 22nd Animal Blessing Service
Otterden Chapel 3.30pm
- 25th Youth Group
Stalisfield Village Hall 7 - 8.30pm
- 26th Arts Society lecture, Faversham
Alexander Centre 11am
- 27th Together in Boots walking group
Doddington Church leave at **2pm**
- 29th Eastling School Fête
Eastling School Field 12 - 3pm

JULY

- 2nd Otterden & Stalisfield W.I.
Stalisfield Village Hall 7.30pm



SATURDAY 7TH JUNE

THROWLEY FETE

1PM TO 5PM

**STALLS, PUNCH & JUDY
CREAM TEAS & CAKES
BOUNCY CASTLE
DOG SHOW & MUCH MORE**

6PM TO 11.30PM

**BAR, LIVE MUSIC:
THE GOLDEN WONDERS
HOT FOOD AVAILABLE**



Animal Blessing Service

“All Creatures Great and Small”

to be held at St. Lawrence's Chapel, Otterden Place.

ME13 0BU

Sunday 22nd June at 3.30 pm.

**Please bring your pets, ponies and other animals to
Otterden Place Chapel.**

We are aiming to hold the service in the churchyard if the weather allows, so please bring picnic rugs and fold up chairs. Trailers containing larger animals can be reversed up to the churchyard wall to overlook the churchyard, please park cars on the other side of the pathway by the chapel. If it is wet smaller animals, will be welcome in the chapel.

The service will be relayed through speakers, with the Rev Paula Jardine-Rose blessing all the animals both inside and outside the churchyard. Pet cages may be appropriate, with all dogs on leads please. Owners must be in control of their animals at all times! Kindly take your own litter and that of your pets' away with you when you leave.

There will be assistance to guide you on arrival at Otterden Place - head for the chapel at the top right-hand side of the Park. You are welcome to picnic in the grounds/churchyard before the service, but no BBQs and no smoking in the grounds. There is a standpipe for water in the churchyard.

**Please arrive in good time to be ready for the service,
gates open from 2 pm.**

Message from our Rector

As I sit and write this, we are in the grip of a very nice warm spell of weather.

I think a bit of blue sky, hearing the birds in the hedgerows and feeling a bit of warmth on our skin, makes us feel much better.

We feel uplifted and ready to get into action after the darkness and chilly weather of winter and spring. Summer is here (for a while at least). Yet the ground is exceptionally dry. We have to manually water our plants and our farmers are desperately in need of a bit of rain to bring on the crops, and pasture for the livestock.

We too can find that we need 'watering'. Spiritually we can feel dry and thirsty, but it is at this time of year that we remember and celebrate Pentecost, which saw the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples of Jesus.

Some of us may know this time of year as Whitsun, likely a derivation of 'White Sunday', the day that the Holy Ghost or Holy Spirit descended upon the

gathered disciples. We now tend to call it Pentecost from the Greek for 'fiftieth' being 50 days from Easter (including both Easter and Pentecost). The Holy Spirit was not only poured out upon the disciples, but it continues to be poured out among us, it is the 'active' part of God, if you like. This active Spirit dwells within us, and if we allow it to, we can be moved to do God's work; to help those in need, to pray for and with people, to seek to build relationships with our communities and to grow our own faith.

So like a plant that is freshly watered, let us all regain our strength and purpose in God's created world. Let us flourish, let us put on new growth and nurture those new shoots to ultimately produce the fruits of the Holy Spirit as defined in Galatians 5, which are Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-control.

May you all have a blessed time of renewal.

Rev Paula



Praying for the gifting of the Holy Spirit

Let us pray together as we prepare for Pentecost (*Sunday 8th June*), the birthday of the Christian Church. Today, we give thanks for all who are praying with us throughout our world, - in countries where the word of God is known and loved, in places where our fellow Christians worship in secret and fear. We give thanks that the good news of God's message is for everyone.

Lord, as the disciples met together and received the Holy Spirit, we too thank you for the gifts you have bestowed upon us, and we pray that we may learn to use them wisely.

May we use them in our church community and beyond, taking the Good News to those who wait to hear your word.

*Prayer written by Elizabeth Walsh -
Authorised Lay Minister at Brents &
Davington: St Mary Magdalene*

*Used by permission Canterbury
Diocesan Calendar of Prayer*

New Prayer Group

Starting on Wednesdays
10.30am in
Doddington Vicarage

Interested?

Call Robert on 07743 807550

Prayer Pointers

Sundays - Give thanks for the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives and pray new Christians to be empowered in his love.

Mondays - For all sitting exams this term.

Tuesdays - Give thanks for the lush greens of summer growth, pray for those fleeing their homes in drought ridden areas of the world.

Wednesdays - For all who have fallen victim to the increasing number of scams.

Thursdays - For those delivering aid in war torn countries.

Fridays - Give thanks for our friends and pray for God to bless them.

Saturdays - Pray for those who are lonely and feel forgotten.



Eastling

Church

Flower Rota



June 1st & 8th - Julia M

15th & 22nd - Mel

29th & 6th July 6th - Aneta and
Leigh-Anne

If you would like to join the
flower arranging rota, please call
Bay on 01795 892036.

CHARING & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY



www.charinghistory.co.uk

Our season of Talks for 2024/25 has been extremely successful. A big 'thank you' to all our members and friends, for your support

We are currently in the process of preparing our programme for 2025/26, and hope to publish this in July's magazine

Thank you also to everyone who showed interest at our stand at this year's Village Fete, where we had 2 themes:

- 'Charing Then & Now', a display of photos and details of the businesses in Charing in 1994 (Charing Parish Council's centenary)

- 'WW2 and VE Day': information about the village from the Kentish Express archives, and general memories of the Battle of Britain, along with memories of the Battle of Britain and the start of the war from Charing residents in 1940

The information from the displays will eventually be available on our website

Finally, Steve Beck was a nominee for the Charing Parish Council Community Award, in recognition for his work in transferring their historical Council Meeting Minutes from 1894 onwards to digital storage, along with compiling a comprehensive index. This was a major job - Congratulations Steve!!

Keith Oram

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See our availability here: <https://www.eastlingvillagehall.co.uk/calendar>

The AGM of Otterden & Stalisfield W.I. at the beginning of May was well attended and we have attracted new members too.

After the business was finished we discussed outings to The Marlowe Theatre at which Helen Brooks has reserved seats to a number of varied productions over the coming months. A Peony Picnic at Little Budds Farm, Thurnham is arranged on the 2nd June where we can pick and purchase Peonies and then have an afternoon picnic which we supply. We will be car sharing to keep down costs and being environmentally friendly too.

Sylvia and Steven Beck will kindly be giving just our W.I. Group a tour of South Foreland Lighthouse, Dover on 15th July.

As to be expected, there are steps to be negotiated so participants will have to be relatively fit. We will then round off the afternoon with tea and a picnic.



Smile Line — Economy

The vicar asked a member of his congregation, a banker, why he seemed a bit down. The banker replied: "I'm a walking economy! My hairline is in recession, my stomach is a victim of inflation, and both of these together are putting me into a deep depression."

NEWNHAM OPEN GARDENS

Sundays 8th & 22nd June
1 pm to 6 pm

Come and enjoy an afternoon at one of Kent's favourite Open Gardens days

Afternoon teas from 2 pm

Ploughman's lunches at Tawnyhill Kennels*
12 noon to 2 pm 8 June only

- Plant stall •
- Flower display in the church •
- Open Studios at Sandhurst Farm Forget •
- Pimm's and local beers •

Live music on the village green

8 June THE CASSIS COLLECTIVE from 3 pm
22 June LOWERING THE TONE at 2.30 pm

* 2017 Gardeners World best wild life garden runner up and NGS opener
Homestead Road ME9 0LF • Parking available • www.tawnyhillboardingkennels.co.uk

† Textiles • Leatherwork • Ceramics • Wood turning • Blacksmithing • Stone sculpture
Seed Road ME9 0NE • Parking & refreshments • www.sea-u-ai.org

Entrance by programme, obtainable at any of the open gardens
Adults £5, accompanied children free

Limited parking at Sharsted Playing Field ME9 0LQ

Proceeds to Newnham Church
Registered Charity No. 1162554

bruce.leckie@live.co.uk for more information

Sunflower MEMORIES 2025

Saturday 12 July

Who will you remember this summer?

Dedicate a beautiful sunflower to someone you love, and join us to relive your memories with music and refreshments at the Sunflower Days.

www.pilgrimshospices.org/sunflowers
sunflowers@pilgrimshospices.org 01227 762 062

Names on sunflowers: Evelyn, Henry, James, Emma, Charles, Graham.

Like Father, Like Son

'Dead Ringer' is the odd phrase we use when referring to someone who looks like somebody else. Sometimes, instead, we say 'spitting image' when we see a likeness or similarity between one person and another.

This month includes Fathers' Day (15th June) and is an occasion when dads are particularly remembered by their children. As far as the boys are concerned, how many have heard someone say 'Oh, you really look like your father'?

One day, Jesus was talking to His disciples and said, "Whoever has seen me has seen the Father" (Jn 14:9) What an

amazing statement! Jesus was saying that He was the dead ringer or spitting image of God! At another time Jesus said, "I am in the Father and the Father is in Me." (Jn 14:10) These words must have shocked His hearers, for He was saying that He was equal with God. No one had said anything like this before, but certainly His miracles were proof that He was different. No-one else could do what He was doing. Some people wondered—could He really be who He said He was?

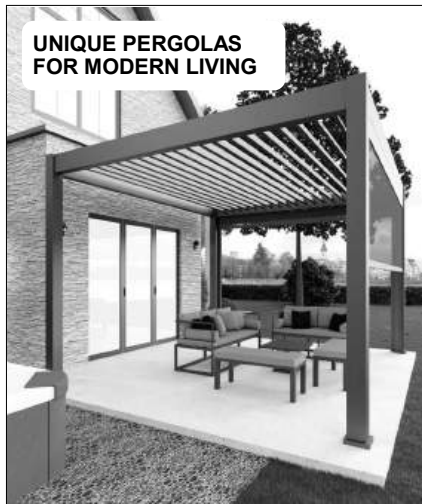
So Jesus attempted to make His position clear and said, "If you knew Me you would know the Father also." (Jn 8:19) The people were being urged to know Jesus more. They had to look, listen and

believe. Were His deeds of God or not? They had to decide!

Today, we all stand in a similar position. Who is Jesus? Do we look at Him and say 'Yes, this is God in the flesh' or 'No, He was just a good person - but also perhaps, deluded or crazy'?

Thomas, the disciple with the nickname 'doubter', exclaimed: "My Lord and *my* God" (Jn 20:28). Thomas was convinced that he was in the presence of God, in human form. And when the Apostle Paul wrote to the church at Colossae he said clearly: 'It was by God's own decision that the Son has in Himself the full nature of God' (Col 1:19). Like Father, like Son!

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THE ARTS SOCIETY EGERTON

*The Arts Society brings people together through
a shared curiosity for the arts*

We meet at Egerton Millennium Hall, Elm Close TN27 9DS on the second Wednesday of each month at 2.30pm (doors open from 2.00). Our next lecture will be:

Wednesday 11th June at 2.30 pm:

RESURGAM -

The Music of St. Paul's Cathedral

(An Egerton Music Festival event)

Patrick Craig is a Vicar Choral at St. Paul's Cathedral. For 20 years he combined this with an international singing career performing in over 1000 concerts with the world-renowned early music consort - The Tallis Scholars.

N.B. our short AGM will take place at 2.00pm before this lecture begins.

Visitors are always very welcome at £6 (just turn up and pay on the door), refunded if you join. For further information please contact Christine Willis, our Membership Secretary via cmwillis75@gmail.com or 01233 756377.

See also our website
www.theartsocietyegerton.org.uk



The Arts Society Faversham

The Arts Society is the UK's leading arts education charity that brings people together through a shared curiosity in the arts. We enjoy illustrated talks on a fascinating wide range of topics, outings to galleries and historic houses and an elegant annual Society Dinner. Meetings are held at The Alexander Centre in Preston Street, Faversham on the 4th Thursday of the month. Come along for a complimentary coffee at 10.20am for the 11am start. You can try us out for a modest fee and no doubt will want to become a member!

Thursday 26th June 2025:

**'Great Railway Stations—
Evoking the spirit of romance and
adventure'.**

The lecturer will be Ian Swankie.

If you think of St.Pancras International or New York Grand Central you imagine long romantic journeys. You know they are special places promising excitement.

www.theartsocietyfaversham.org.uk



Please Note our New Time!

Together in Boots

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through woodland

**Leaving Doddington Church at 2pm
and returning for tea & cake at 2.45pm**

Humans and well-behaved dogs all welcome



On Fridays 23rd May; 27th June;
25th July; 29th August

Enquiries to Lissie on 07790 287878
lissie1710@gmail.com

egertonmusicfestival.co.uk

26th June - 6th July

26th June- Egerton Film Society

presents.....The Umbrellas of
Cherbourg. £6

7 for 7.30pm - Millennium Hall

27th June - The Faccini Piano Duo

Programme to include works by Ravel
and Gershwin. £15 (free for under 16s)

7.30pm - Millennium Hall

28th June - 6th July Art Exhibition

A vibrant collection of contemporary
fine art.

10am - 6pm daily (9.30pm on concert
days)

Free entry.

Games Barn next to the Millennium
Hall

28th June - Bands and Barbecue

The best bands from local schools play
covers and their own work. £10

6.30pm - Millennium Hall

29th June - SING!

Stevie Higgins and Friends

6.30pm for early supper

7.30pm for performance £10, pizzas
extra

Millennium Hall

1st July - Music Quiz

£5 or £30 for team of 6

7.30pm - Millennium Hall

2nd July - Kim Begley & David

Gaukroger are Flanders and Swan.
£10

7.30pm - Millennium Hall

3rd July - Duncan Chisholm and Band

£20 (free for under 16s)

7.30pm - Millennium Hall

4th July - The Hague String Trio

£20 (free for under 16s)

7.30pm - Millennium Hall

5th July - Picnic in the Garden

The *Jerry Hatrick's* and other young
musicians

£2 or £5 for a family, take your own
picnic

2 - 5pm Link House

5th July - Jazz Supper

Ashford Youth Jazz Orchestra,

Supper by Frasers £25

6.30pm - Millennium Hall

6th July - Jane Wisely, Piano Recital

£10 (free for under 16s)

3.30pm - Millennium Hall

6th July - The Sixteen

Last Night Concert £25

7.30pm St James' Church



Youth Group in Stalisfield for 11-17yr olds.

**WELCOME
NEW MEMBERS**

We meet on Wednesdays, usually twice a month, 7 - 8.30pm in the village hall AND it is free to come.

We have music, gaming, craft, table tennis, table football,



outside games in the Summer,
craft table, tuck shop (everything 10 - 50p), free cake and drink.

It is a time when young people can relax, hang out and catch up.

Upcoming Dates:

Wednesdays 11th and 25th June

Contact Catherine 07929 928 046 or clnorwood@doctors.org.uk or see our Facebook page for more details.

News from Eastling Primary School

Eastling Primary School is delighted to share that we have achieved double platinum for OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning). This puts us in the top 1% of schools in the world for play! We are extremely proud of this achievement and continue to further develop our outdoor environment for the benefit of the children.

Maple class have been attending weekly farm school at Nonington. They have been learning about crops, spreading seeds to encourage the turtle doves, learning about farm machinery, the animals and making bread.

On Friday 25th April Acorn class had their class assembly where they shared their learning about St George and The Dragon. The children acted out the story dressed in costumes of knights, princesses and of course the dragon. They showed their brightly painted dragons and shields to the whole school and their families.

On Monday 28th April Maple class went to Forest School at Admiral Woods. The focus was Amazing Ancients looking at old trees, identifying bugs, flowers and listening to the trees using stethoscopes. The whole school enjoyed our annual Bluebell Walk on Friday 2nd May around Eastling woods. Willow class went to Living Land at the Kent Showground, Detling on Thursday 8th May. Holly class led a wonderful assembly on Friday 9th May around their learning about the Rainforests. They shared some fantastic artwork of a very high quality as part of the assembly.

For further information please visit our school website where photographs and newsletters are displayed and updated regularly.

www.eastling.kent.sch.uk



The Kingdom Come

Youth Event

Saturday 7th June, 7pm - 9pm
Canterbury Cathedral

This free event, held in the Chapter House of the historic Canterbury Cathedral, will have worship led by a live youth worship band, as well as time for fellowship, prayer, food and drink.

Young people aged 11 - 18 are welcome to attend, but will need to be accompanied by youth leader.

For details and booking form go to: <https://www.canterburydiocese.org/our-life/news-events/news/thy-kingdom-come-2558.php>

WORDSEARCH - the young life of Jesus

Jesus
twelve
Joseph
third
walking
clever
working
children

temple
festival
Mary
evening
teachers
searching
son
home

feasting
talking
father
women

men
Jerusalem
camp
Passover

t	p	x	c	t	f	a	t	h	e	r	z
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m	s	j	e	j	s	a	t	h	i	r	d
p	s	s	v	e	t	z	c	a	m	p	t
l	o	e	e	s	i	w	s	h	m	w	c
e	v	a	r	u	v	i	z	o	e	o	j
j	e	r	u	s	a	l	e	m	n	r	o
w	r	c	h	i	l	d	r	e	n	k	s
o	m	h	e	v	e	n	i	n	g	i	e
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e	r	n	t	w	e	l	v	e	q	g	h
n	y	g	w	a	l	k	i	n	g	m	p

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culture - I've always worn a hoody."

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Services in our Benefice

1st June Easter 7

Acts 16. 16 - 34, John 17. 20 - 26

Eastling 10.30am Holy Communion

Norton 10.30am Morning Worship

8th June Pentecost

Acts 2.1 - 21, John 14.8 - 17, 25 - 27

Throwley 10.30am Morning Prayer

Lynsted 10.30am All Together Now

Newnham 10.30am Holy Communion

15th June Trinity

Romans 5. 1 - 5, John 16. 12 - 15

Eastling 10.30am Morning Worship

Norton 10.30am Holy Communion

18th June, Wednesday

Wychling 11am Holy Communion

22nd June Trinity 1

Galatians 3. 23 - 29, Luke 8. 26 - 39

Throwley 10.30am Holy Communion

Otterden Chapel 3.30pm Animal Blessing Service

29th June Trinity 2

Acts 12. 1 - 11, Matthew 16. 13 - 19 or

Galatians 5. 1, 13 - 25, Luke 9. 51 - 62

Oare 10.30am Benefice Communion

6th July Trinity 3

Galatians 6. [1 - 6] 7 - 16, Luke 10. 1 - 11, 16 - 20

Eastling 10.30am Holy Communion

Norton 10.30am Morning Worship

Online Daily Worship Continues

9am Morning Prayer will continue on the Benefice Facebook Page via <https://kc-hd.org.uk> .

More information is updated weekly on St Mary's Eastling 'A Church Near You':

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/11982/>



High Downs Parish

Rector Revd Paula Jardine-Rose

07516 411269 paula.jardine.rose@kc-hd.org.uk

Parish Administrator Joyce Warren

01795 521831 joyce.warren@kc-hd.org.uk

Associate Priest Reverend James (Jim) Pye

01795 890726 jim.pye@kc-hd.org.uk

Reader Caroline Ramshaw (07799 538809)

Anna Chaplain Caroline Ramshaw
ramshawcaroline@gmail.com

Reader Pim Baxter (07710 116269)

Church Contacts

Eastling Andrew Baxter, Warden (07749 403727)

Administrator E mail: stmaryeastling@gmail.com

Stalisfield with Otterden

Jenny King, Warden (01795 890366)

Chrissie Webster, Administrator
(07590 351977)

Throwley David Elvin, Warden (07973 837122)

E mail: david.j.elvin@gmail.com

High Downs Parish Safeguarding Officer

Mark Harlow (07979 864000)

E mail: mark.harlow@kc-hd.org.uk

CONTACT THE GOOD NEWS EDITOR

Hilary Harlow 01795 890338

If you would like to submit articles, or to advertise in the July 2025 magazine, send your submission by 20th June to: goodnewsmagazine@me.com.

Past and current issues of the Good News may be viewed on www.goodnews.rf.gd

Anna Chaplaincy

Please contact our Anna Chaplain, Caroline Ramshaw, if you know of someone who is isolated, alone or unable to attend church.

An Anna Chaplain can offer a listening ear and company. Communion can be brought to you in your own home.



Contact your local Anna Chaplain on:
ramshawcaroline@gmail.com 07799 538 809

The letter below arrived just too late for inclusion in the May Good News, but is still relevant today. Ed.

Dear Parish and Town Councils,

My apologies for the blanket email, however this is the quickest way I can contact all of you and hopefully prevent anyone becoming victim of a current concerning fraud. Over the last couple of days Kent police have received various calls from Swale residents reporting that they have received phone calls from someone claiming to be a police officer. They give a fake police officer name and force number and state they are part of the Economical Crime Team at Sittingbourne Police Station (There isn't such a department). They claim there have been some irregularities spotted within the bank account of the person they are calling before requesting the person hangs up and calls the police. The criminal pretending to be a police officer will keep the line open their end and when the poor victim calls 999, they will pretend to be a police call taker where they then ask for the victim's bank details.

This type of crime is highly sophisticated, and the criminals are well trained in what they are doing. Please can you all spread this message far and wide and if there is anyone with access to local Facebook Village pages, please can you ask they publish this on there so we can warn as many people of this scam and prevent people becoming a victim of this. There have now been 10 calls from Swale residents today alone and these are only those reporting it; there will be many more and unfortunately it is quite often that those who become victims of this type of crime don't report it through embarrassment. The calls have thus far very much been targeting the elderly and the pattern appear to be alphabetical through the phone book for those with Swale addresses.

Please feel free to attach the below link to any post you can send out of which details what to do if you are unsure as to whether the person calling you is a genuine police officer.

<https://www.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/fa/how-to-check-an-officers-identity/#:~:text=How%20to%20check,123%202040>.

Thank you all for your assistance with this.

Kind regards,
PC Jez Chittim

Neighbourhood Beat Officer for East Downs and Watling, Hartlip, Newington and Upchurch

Eastling Neighbourhood Watch



Village Warden 07794 010 394 or
01795 890848

Police 101 Emergency 999

For any cyber attacks or scam calls
please report it on
0330 123 2040

There has been a constant rise in attempted scams recently in local areas, such as people pretending to be either police, your bank, couriers and many other areas. Please be very aware of these and do not hesitate to report these scams. If perchance you are involved with any scam when you have been caught out, please do not feel embarrassed about reporting it as it can assist in anybody else being caught out.

There has been a surge in the use of off-road motor bikes in local areas. As these bikes are being used illegally on our roads they are dangerous as well. Should any person know where they are coming from perhaps they could be warned off as I would hate to see their pride and joy end up in the crushing machine.

With the recent hot weather the hedgerows are making the road a bit narrower so please take care out there.

Have a good month
Take Care
Alan

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News from Citizens Advice Swale

First time Renting?

Are you thinking about renting somewhere for the first time?

citizens
advice

It can seem daunting so we've shared some tips below.

Most properties available for rent are listed online or with lettings agents. If you have the chance, renting directly from a landlord might be a bit cheaper before you move in, as they may ask for fewer references and you might not need to do a credit check. You'll have to deal with them directly if any issues arise during the tenancy. Some landlords use a lettings agent to find their tenants and then manage the properties themselves. If an agent is managing the property then you'll deal with them rather than with the landlord directly, for instance, if you need to get any repairs done. Never pay any money before you've seen the property as this is a common tactic used by rental fraudsters. If you can, take someone with you when viewing properties for a second opinion.

Ask the landlord or letting agent some key questions to make sure properties you're considering are safe, affordable and meet your needs.

- How much is the rent? Is it payable monthly or weekly?
- How long is the tenancy for?
- Are bills included in the rent?
- Are any appliances or furniture included?
- Is there a break clause allowing any fixed term to be ended early, if needed?
- Does the landlord need a guarantor?
- Is there a tenancy deposit, how much is it, and how will it be protected?

It's also good to ask whether the tenancy is for a self-contained property, or whether there are shared facilities, whether or not it's a joint tenancy with other people and, if relevant, if you can have pets. Make sure you're happy with the arrangements.

Check if you'll need to pay a holding deposit while the landlord carries out pre-tenancy checks. A deposit can't be more than a week's rent and should be returned to you at the start of the tenancy. You should also ask your landlord or letting agent what documents you'll need to provide when you agree to rent the property including evidence of your Right to Rent. Avoid 'subletting' which is when you rent directly from an existing tenant, as they might not have the landlord's permission to rent to you. If a tenant is showing you around the property on behalf of the landlord they should give you the landlord's contact details.

If a landlord refuses to rent to you because of who you are, this may be discrimination - for example because of your race, religion or sexual orientation. A 'no kids policy' or refusing to rent to you because you get benefits could also be discrimination. You only need to tell a landlord or letting agent you receive benefits if they ask.

If you need any other pointers or advice on renting, or you run into any problems, here's how to contact us for advice:

Drop-in sessions (no appointment necessary)

Monday, 10am-12pm, Swale House, Sittingbourne

Tuesday, 10am-12pm, Sheppey Gateway, Sheerness (except the second Tuesday of every month, which is held at Sheerness East Working Mens Club)

Tuesday, 11.30am-1.30pm, Murston Family Hub, Tonge Road

Wednesday & Friday, 10am-12pm, 43 Stone Street, Faversham

Telephone advice

Call Adviceline on freephone 0808 278 7979 (Monday-Friday 10am-3.30pm)

Email advice

Contact us online at www.citizensadvice.co.uk/email-general-advice (Monday-Wednesday)

Debt advice

Request a call back from our specialist money advice team at www.citizensadvice.co.uk/debt

To stay up to date with our opening times, please visit www.citizensadvice.co.uk or follow us on Facebook.



Woods (extract)

by Audrey Keen

Woods,
those woods where a sunset supreme
Comes to cover me as I dream.
Yet, before I awake again, the sun sees
That light is poured evenly through
Those wood trees.
And rain in June brings shimmering jewels
Scattered to fall in the tree root as pools,
Where every creature, last or first,
Will find fresh water to quench their thirst.
For the woods, woods are friendly and
homely;
Mother and father to all wild things,
And I am unable, in just a few words,
To express the true peace that this
Summer wood brings.

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Stalisfield Road, Faversham, Kent,
ME13 0HY

Tel: 01795 890 256 Email:
info@theploughinnstalisfield.co.uk

News from our County Councillor

I'd like to take this opportunity to say a heartfelt thank you to everyone who put their trust in me to represent Swale East at KCC for another term.

During the campaign, I had the privilege of speaking with residents from almost every village and community across Swale East. I met hundreds of people who told me they were intending to vote for me and the Green Party, and about as many who were not. Regardless of how people intended to vote, I was eager to listen to the concerns and hopes that are shaping our community right now. To the many who I had conversations with who told me they supported Reform, I want you to know that I will be representing you as well, and I genuinely share many of your frustrations.

One thing that I felt far more clearly than when I campaigned in 2021 is the level of frustration that exists in our society now. We find ourselves surrounded by a media environment that thrives on outrage and division. Especially in the news we access online, which relies on views for ad revenue, so creates headlines designed to catch people's attention. In some areas this is relatively harmless, even if frustrating, such as with the torrent of stories which appear online every October and November telling us that three feet of snow are on the way, despite the chances of it happening being virtually non-existent.

In other areas it can be far more serious. The riots which took place across England last summer were sparked by misinformation about the identity of the perpetrator of a horrific crime, and whilst the misinformation was not shared by mainstream news sources, it did fit with a narrative which has been running for

years in many corners of the UK's media, driven by provocative and divisive headlines and articles.

This is problematic. At a time when we need to be coming together and supporting each other more than ever, it's disheartening to see how easily we can be pitted against one another, when what we truly need is unity and compassion.

It's also clear that many people are feeling upset, anxious, or even ignored and left behind by their politicians. I completely sympathise with those feelings. The sense of being unheard or overlooked is deeply unsettling, and it's something I've heard time and again on the doorstep. People are looking for real change, and after 14 years of Conservative government marked by austerity and hardship for many, there was hope that a Labour government would bring about that change. Sadly, the decisions made by Keir Starmer's government have left many feeling disappointed and angry, and that

frustration was palpable in so many of the conversations I had.

While I don't agree with some of the solutions put forward by Reform in their campaign literature, I do agree that there are important issues we need to talk about openly. Too often, people feel shut down or unable to express their views. Social media, which should be a platform for connection, is probably the worst possible place for meaningful discussion on these complex issues - especially with those we disagree with.

Unlike some politicians, I'm happy to be honest and say that I don't have all the answers. These are complicated times, and the problems we face don't have easy solutions. But I am committed to listening, to representing everyone in Swale East, and to working towards a community where everyone feels heard and represented as far as possible. Thank you again for your trust and support.

Rich Lehmann
rich.lehmann@kent.gov.uk



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Eastling School (School days only, 8am - 4.30pm) sited in the corridor of Main Building. ME13 0BA

Stalisfield sited at Stalisfield Village Hall, ME13 0HY

Throwley sited in the old Telephone Box outside the Old Post Office, ME13 0PJ

Restoration of Bangor's Bible Gardens

Bangor's historic Bible Gardens are undergoing a significant transformation as part of the city's 1500th anniversary celebrations, with preparatory work already underway.

Located next to Saint Deiniol's Cathedral, the Bible Garden is being reimagined in collaboration with Bangor City Council and the Cathedral.

Originally established in 1961 by Dr. Tatham Whitehead, then Professor of Botany at the University College of North Wales, the green space was designed to feature plants and trees mentioned in the Bible. Dr Whitehead's research identified 148 plants referenced in the scriptures, with the garden attempting to cultivate as many of these species as possible.

The restoration project is based on the original design and planting scheme from the archives. Substitutions of more climate-resilient species will be made where necessary.

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The 40th North Downs Walk,
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